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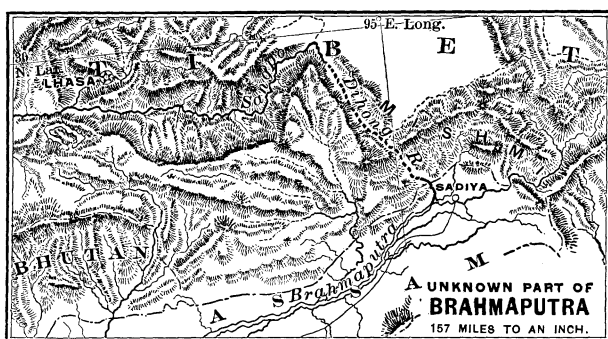
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PROPOSED EXPLORATION OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA.

The *London Times* (weekly edition, April 13) says that a resolution has been adopted by the Council of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and ordered to be submitted to the Secretary of State for India in Council. It is to the effect that, in view of the great regret felt in geographical circles throughout the world that the proposed expedition down the Brahmaputra to Assam did not take place at the close of the Tibet Mission, 1903-1904, the Council trust that the Indian Government will now see their way to carry out this exploration, which is of extreme interest and importance, on the following grounds:

By it would be finally settled the question of the connection of the Sangpo of Tibet with the Dibong (Brahmaputra) of Assam.



The known difference of levels renders it certain that the river must descend from Tibet to the plains of India by great waterfalls exceeding all others in height and volume. If these falls (which are said by the Tibetans to exist) should be discovered, much light would be thrown on the geology of the region. In particular we might expect information as to the structure of the country traversed, and the relation borne by the vast Himalaya ranges to the elevated plateau against which they abut.

Nothing is known at present of the tribes who inhabit the tract through which this part of the river passes. Valuable collections of the fauna and flora would probably be obtained. It is possible that a good route might be discovered leading from Assam into Tibet by the great river; such a route would have much importance

in promoting British trade with Tibet. The resolution is signed by the president, Professor James Geikie.

This part of the course of the Brahmaputra has not been surveyed on account of the hostility of the Mishmi tribes among the mountains. No exploring party has been sufficiently strong to push through this inhospitable country.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

THE DUKE OF THE ABRUZZI STARTS FOR AFRICA.—The expedition of the Duke of the Abruzzi to Mount Ruwenzori sailed on April 17. Twelve Europeans are in the party: the Duke of the Abruzzi, Captain Cagni, Dr. Cavalli, Lieut. Winspeare, Dr. Roncati, a geologist, Signor Vittorio Sella, two Alpine guides, two porters, and an assistant photographer.

THE FRENCH CONGO.—A decree issued on Feb. 11, 1906, modifies the territorial divisions of the French Congo (BULLETIN No. 3, 1904, p. 169). The region is divided into four districts—Gabon, Moyen-Congo, Oubangui-Chari, and Tchad—all of which will be under the administrative control of the Commissioner-General residing at Brazzaville. The first three are colonies with financial and administrative autonomy, while the Tchad district is a military territory attached to the Oubangui-Chari. The capitals of the colonies are Libreville, Brazzaville, and Fort de Possel.

The territorial modifications do not greatly affect the division of the area made in 1894, but the Gabon receives some accession of territory by the incorporation of coast districts formerly included in the middle Congo. The Gabon colony now comprises all the basin of the Ogowe, with coast districts from the Spanish territory in the north to Sette Cama in the south. The Chad territory includes practically all the French portion of the Shari basin, together with Wadai and Kanem.

Commissioner-General Gentil has returned to the Congo to carry out the programme of administration formulated by the Colonial Minister. It is designed to guard the natives against ill-treatment, preserve the resources of the country, and rationally develop them.

THE NILE FLOOD AND ITS VARIATION.—Captain H. G. Lyons, Director-General of the Survey Department of Egypt, has been making a study of the Nile floods in relation to pressure conditions and rainfall (see this BULLETIN, Oct., 1905, pp. 601-602). His latest paper is entitled "On the Nile Flood and its Variation" (*Geographical Journal*, Sept.-Oct., 1905), and concerns the possible correlations between Nile floods and other periodic oscillations in solar and meteorological phenomena. Several writers on the Nile have asserted that an alternation of high and low floods is evident, and have sought a relation between this alternation, on the one hand, and sun-spots (Fritz), deficient monsoons in India (Willcocks), solar weather (Lockyer), and Indian pressures and monsoon characteristics